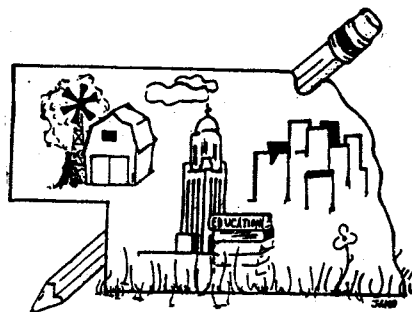


The Nebraska Observer

Vol. 5, Number 9 August 31, 1990



formerly WHAMO
See WHAMO Pullout!

Witness Reveals Grand Jury Irregularities

by Frances Mendenhall

One of the witnesses to the Douglas County Grand Jury who contributed to its July findings was a young woman who a year ago had been under investigation by the FBI for her activities as an Omaha teenager at sex parties with adults. "Jane Doe," as she is called in the transcript of the interview with State Sen. Ernie Chambers, had moved out of Omaha and broken previous contacts. She now lives some distance from Omaha. She was subpoenaed in mid-June to appear the next day, but she was not able to get transportation, and called the Grand Jury to ask that transportation be provided. A day or two later she was given a ride to the Grand Jury in Omaha by Special Prosecutor Sam Van Pelt.

A number of things about this occurrence seemed strange to her, from the way the subpoena was delivered to the interaction she had with the Special Prosecutor during the ride, to the content of the questioning in the Grand Jury. She was left with the overwhelm-

ing impression that the Grand Jury had wanted only that part of her testimony that might be useful to discredit Alisha Owen.

Later, she was to receive phone calls from a male saying she talked too much. Since she had moved several times since her partying days, and except for phone calls right after being investigated by the FBI, had not had any such phone calls, she believed that someone connected with the Grand Jury was giving out information.

Sloppily Crafted Hoax

In our opinion the picture of the Grand Jury that is emerging shows the jury to be a victim of a sloppily crafted hoax. Probably the "hoax" was not an overtly conspiratorial thing, at least not for the majority of the jurors, but more the product of circumstances when believing people examine evidence that is selected by someone whose goal it is to demonstrate the innocence of a prominent person. There was, however, apparently at

least one juror who had a personal relationship with one of the people being investigated and believed him to be incapable of the actions he was accused of. Add to that the usual tendency most people have to trust the observations and testimony of anyone in a uniform, and it is easy to believe that 16 people could have come to a very inadequate conclusion.

Burned Out

According to Jane Doe, Van Pelt was weary of the Grand Jury proceedings, and wanted to get back to his farm. In Sen. Chambers' words, "Perhaps Mr. Van Pelt was burned out." We were also astonished to read Jane Doe's affirmation that Van Pelt had confirmed Doe's statement that there were leaks in the FBI. If her story is true, what possible reason could he have had for saying that? Was this just an example of carelessness? Why was there apparently no follow up on the evidence presented by Doe and others that satanic activity had taken place? More care-

lessness, or was their agenda just too narrow? There were other signs of low professionalism revealed in Jane Doe's interview.

Jane Doe: Then the fact is also, about half way through my testimony, in front of the Grand Jury, it was, it got to a point where I didn't even trust them. Because of the fact that they did not want to know about Alisha or any of that type of stuff. Then I stated XY's name and it goes around; the guy calls off the different jury numbers Van Pelt did; and it got to this lady who was sitting in back and she got up and she asked me, well how do you know XY? And I explained how I knew him; that I had _____. She told me, "I don't think X would have done anything bad. I am friends with him, I have known X and his family." And at that point, they had somebody on the jury, in my mind,

Continued on page 12

Ride With Special Prosecutor Raises Witness Tampering, Other Concerns

Jane Doe, not her real name, went to State Sen. Ernie Chambers' office on July 26 to make a statement about what she had observed regarding the Grand Jury. A transcript of her statement was mailed to several officials in the judiciary system. Another transcript was sent to the media and members of the Legislature with her name, as well as certain other information that could have risked her privacy, blocked out.

The cover letter included in Sen. Chambers' August 16 mailing to Douglas County Attorney Ron Staskiewicz detailed some of Chambers' concerns. Chambers' letter documented his concerns with references to certain pages in the document. Following are the concerns.

by Ernie Chambers

Tampering With a Witness

Mr. Van Pelt may have had improper contact with Jane Doe by virtue of his having driven her from another town to Omaha to appear before the Grand Jury. In the same way that a Douglas County Sheriff's Deputy delivered the subpoena to her, in the same way that the Nebraska State Patrol delivered an Order issued by Judge Murphy to the parents of Alisha Owen--one of those agencies should

have been utilized to provide transportation for Jane Doe.

Mr. Van Pelt's discussion with the witness, of Grand Jury business--including the testimony of other witnesses, the Grand Jury's attitude toward the testimony of other witnesses, the type and purpose of the testimony sought from her--appears to have been improper and a violation of the secrecy requirement, as well as the requirement of not tampering with a witness.

Name Obtained From Alisha Owen?

Prior to meeting Mr. Van Pelt for the drive to Omaha, Jane Doe was not familiar with him or his role with the Grand Jury. When she said she would 'plead the Fifth' unless told how her name was obtained, Mr. Van Pelt said that Alisha Owen had mentioned it on 'some tapes.'

Although he told her that Alisha Owen said Jane Doe was doing the same things at some parties that Alisha Owen was doing, he never told her specifically what Alisha and she supposedly had been doing. Before the Grand Jury, Mr. Van Pelt never mentioned that Jane Doe's name had been mentioned on tapes made by Alisha Owen. Jane Doe had never met or heard of Alisha Owen.

Allegations about Wadman Revealed

Mr. Van Pelt told Jane Doe that Alisha Owen had made allegations about sexual acts against Robert Wadman.

Jane Doe would not have known about such specific charges having been made against Mr. Wadman nor by whom made, had it not been for the disclosures of Mr. Van Pelt.

He continued to ply her with questions

Continued on Page 12

Inside:

Foxes guarding environmental chicken coop?--p.2

The Heartland Fountain--p.3

Must we wage war?--p.4

The docs who brought us the dump--p.6

Post-abortion trauma--p.8

Plus, a WHAMO pullout!

the nebraska observer
P.O. Box 31383, Omaha, NE 68131

Address Correction Requested

Subscription
Status

(To subscribe or renew use page 2 coupon)

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA, NE
PERMIT NO. 1064

ECC a Creation of Political Spoils System

Environmental Council Listens to Industry

by Toni Curtin

The Environmental Control Council (ECC) is a 16-member citizens' board that oversees the Department of Environmental Control (DEC). DEC was created in 1971 to administer all state pollution control laws and state programs in support of the Federal Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. ECC's members represent a host of special interest, except one who is charged with representing the public interest.

Last month that one, Darlene Kiefer, president of Curley's Machine Works Inc. of Kimball, Neb., was sued by the Department of Environmental Control. DEC charged Kiefer's Company with violating state laws governing the removal of asbestos.

Kiefer was appointed by Gov. Orr last year to serve on the 16-member council which sets quality standards as well as rules and regulations to protect the environment. All members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Legislature. Sen. Sandra Scofield of Chadron, who once served on the council, questions whether the makeup of the current council is competent to decide complex scientific and technological issues. Of the present structure, Scofield said, "By law, only one person on the 16-member board must represent environmental issues. Beyond that, you get a heavy dose of industry repre-

The council includes representatives of heavy industry, power generating plants, chemical industries, food manufacturers, livestock industry, agriculture and labor. Other representatives are members of the automobile or petroleum industry, a professional engineer, a physician, a representative for Lincoln and Omaha, a representative for all other Nebraska cities, county government, the "at large" delegate and conservation.

Where Does DEC's Data Come From?

Obviously, members are going to be influenced by their interests. Several members represent some of the largest generators of

waste in Nebraska. Beyond that, where do they get the expertise on which their decisions are based? First, the DEC staff itself. Second, the very industries subject to the council's control supply information. There are numerous examples of this in DEC's own files, which are a matter of public record. Rarely do members seek independent data or research, except to back up the agency's policies.

The scientific method is founded on an open mind. It starts with doubt and ends only after the opposing scientific antitheses have been exhausted.

An example of the agency's failure to use the scientific method is the Biowaste medical incinerator proposal. Until the permit was issued, the only information came from Biowaste. The permit was granted for a site in East Omaha, despite the fact that DEC's own data on the suitability of the location was fatally flawed. Credible scientific testimony from meteorologist John Pollack to the contrary was presented to DEC and was never refuted. Neither was DEC's course of action changed.

Relevant Questions Viewed as 'Gaffe'

More recently, the Nebraska Air Quality Task Force held a field trip to the Ash Grove cement factory in Louisville, Neb. Ash Grove Cement is the No. 1 importer of hazardous waste in Nebraska; the company imports 67,000

tons a year. One member of the task force asked several questions regarding Ash Grove's operation and emission control. Later, this member received a copy of a letter from DEC written by the head of the Nebraska Air Quality Control to Ash Grove Cement apologizing for what he obviously considered a "gaffe" -- asking relevant questions. In the bottom left-hand corner was the official notation to send a copy to the errant member. What's a task force for?

**Incinerator Expert:
"...issue was being
decided on the
testimony of a
company that
stands to gain a lot
of money..."**

Possibly one of the worst decisions made by ECC was to declassify the ash for a proposed hazardous waste incinerator at Kimball, Neb. A chemist renowned for his study of waste incinerators, Dr. Paul Connett, testified against the incinerator. Connett was dismayed. "I was shocked that an issue that

cried out for clear, scientific analysis was being decided essentially on the testimony of a company that stands to gain a lot of money and on public relations," he said.

It is doubtful that any agency such as ECC can achieve its purpose when it is a creation of the political "spoils system." When it comes to the environment, political policy is no substitute for science. June 21, 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Rutan v. The Republican Party of Illinois* against political patronage on the basis of infringement of First Amendment rights in hiring, firing or promoting practices of public employees. You can't be hired or fired based on your religious beliefs; neither can they hire you or fire you based on political favors owed. It is only a matter of time before the spoils system will be examined on the basis of technical competence in highly specialized fields of government. No matter how competent the lower echelon of a governmental agency, it can only reflect the leadership from the top.

Not that a change in council structure and makeup in itself would solve all of DEC's problems. Recently, the Appropriation Committee of the Legislature did an extensive study of the problem. The Glenn/Heck report showed many serious problems with DEC. The agency suffers a high staff turnover,

Continued on page 9

Observer Deadlines

The next issue of the Nebraska Observer will be published September 26. Story ideas are due September 19. Copy is due September 21.

Story ideas for the October 31 issue are due October 17. Copy is due October 24.

Sign me up for the Observer!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day phone: _____

Evening phone: _____

The Nebraska Observer · P.O. Box 31383 · Omaha, NE 68131

I want to receive the Observer and enclosed the following donation.*

____ \$20 member

____ \$50 sustainer

I am enclosing names and addresses of others who might like to subscribe.

Omaha Residents

____ I can help with mailings

____ I have computer skills to share.

*The Nebraska Observer needs at least \$20 per year from every employed member.

Editor
Frances Mendenhall

Contributing Editor
John Boyd

Copy Editor
Karen Nelson

Circulation
Jean Holland

Board of Directors
Jim Cavanaugh
Dick Dinsmore
Frances Mendenhall

Contributing Writers and Artists:
Tony Curtin
Isabel Cohen
Mark Himes
Frances Mendenhall
John Menzies

The Nebraska Observer is distributed monthly by the Nebraska Citizens' Publishing Group, a non-profit corporation. The Nebraska Observer was formerly published under the name WHAMO

Letters and manuscripts may be sent to:

P.O. Box 31383, Omaha, NE 68131

They should include the author's phone number and address. Works may be published under a pseudonym at the discretion of the editor.

Phone: 402-551-2629

Questions about your subscription? Call Jean Holland at 342-4889.

Sod 'Saved' by Making Park Dedication Private

by John Boyd

The multi-million-dollar Heartland of America Park and the \$1.5 million Heartland of America Fountain, featuring 250-foot jets of red, white and blue water, will be dedicated to the public in a private ceremony on Sept. 17.

Shukert Predicted Heartland Park Would Be ConAgra Back Yard

by Mark Himes

The "privatization" of the Sept. 17 Heartland of America Park dedication is completely consistent with comments made in October 1987 by then-Omaha Planning Director Marty Shukert when plans for the park were developed.

In a memo to Mayor Bernie Simon, Shukert noted "disturbing developments" in the site plan, which was drawn "independently" by ConAgra and which was "contrary to the sense of the last meeting [between city officials and ConAgra]." In addition to a "reduction in the dry land area of the park," ConAgra mandated "covenants to govern development in what [it] considers its front, side and rear yards — that is, the riverfront park and the adjacent... redevelopment site."

While we at the Nebraska Observer have not yet received our invitations, we understand the event begins with entertainment at 6 p.m. followed at 7 p.m. with speeches by Douglas County Board Chairman Mike Albert, ConAgra Chairman Mike Harper, and

Wall" mentality noted by the park's chief designer than the ugly, black metal fence running down into the water of the lake; a brutal, misanthropic demonstration of the division between the public and private sectors of the park.

In the most ironic, yet prophetic paragraph of his memo to Mayor Simon, Marty Shukert expressed with regret his belief that the scales of cost and benefit were tipping against his support of the entire ConAgra/Riverfront project. He wrote, "ConAgra, perhaps understandably, clearly wants total control of and limited public access to its immediate environment. The company contends it could have that control at a suburban site. However, such control runs counter to the original Central Park East concept and to the overall sense of

Omaha Development Foundation head Harold W. Andersen.

Asked why the dedication of a public park was a strictly private affair, Albert replied in a somewhat testy tone: "It's a matter of cost. If we let everyone in we'd need to re-sod."

Albert gave no response to the suggestion that dedication ceremonies be postponed until the park is ready for public use. Nor did he indicate what measures would be taken to protect the park's sod during River City Roundup festivities, a mere two days away from the dedication.

And the reason the dedication can't be put off until the sod is settled enough to accommodate the public?

Timing.

The first full-force-squirt of the fountain has been integrated into the annual River City Roundup, an unabashed week-long promotional event for the Ak-Sar-Ben rodeo, and a celebration of the city's imagined cowboy heritage. This year we get to see Union Pacific chairman Mike Walsh on horse No. 1 as he marshals the annual event.

I say let the boys play cowboy. At least the roundup is paid for primarily by private funds.

But their Calvin Klein cowboy outfits must

put them in an elitist frame of mind that real cowpunchers would never fathom, since those of us wearing mere Levis or Wranglers aren't welcome at the private party they're throwing on our riverfront spread.

Why don't they have their private affair on ConAgra's new sod, and at least let the hoi polli watch from our public park on the other side of the lake?

All of which brings up another gripe:

Albert and Harper have decided that this fountain will be Omaha's signature symbol — imagine the St. Louis arch.

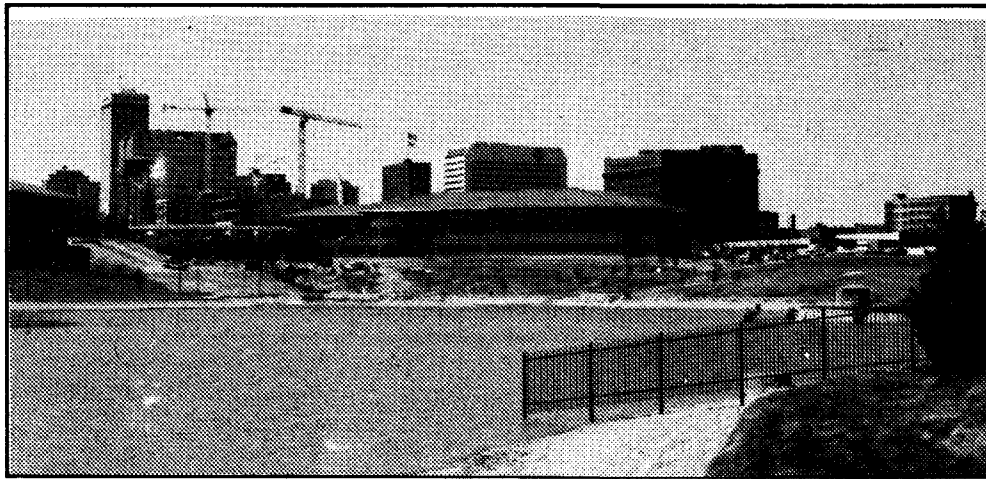
Problem is, it gets cold here, and that means the fountain will be out of commission completely for about half of each year.

Another problem is, it gets darn windy here, and that means the fountain will very seldom reach its much ballyhooed full thrust of 250-feet.

Imagine the St. Louis arch being put in storage for the winter and being shrunk to a fourth of its normal size on windy days.

If you want to see this glorious, part-time, shrunken symbol of Omaha, it will be open to the public starting Tuesday, Sept. 18.

Just watch the sod, and don't stray onto ConAgra's property.



Fence separating public and private sectors of the Heartland of America Park

Shukert added, "ConAgra apparently wants to control the nature of development in the park. My concern is that control over 'architecture' could extend to control over activities and uses in the park." He concluded with the strong recommendation that "ConAgra cannot be in a position to limit uses of the park."

Shukert's concerns were perhaps based on his knowledge that while the riverfront park was conceived as a major recreational resource, the Heartland Park has indeed become the "rear yard" for a private, corporate development. Early, minimal efforts to improve the park's design by providing better public access met with failure due to ConAgra's intransigence. As it now stands, it is impossible to walk around the lake. What better evidence could there be of the "Berlin

a city. Central Park East was originally considered a people place, like other waterfront projects in cities like Baltimore and Minneapolis. Now, it has changed into a private corporate campus, to be viewed by our citizens from afar."



Gate to ConAgra's campus

Invitational Show One Sign of Change at Joslyn

by John Boyd

Since the last, dismal, Joslyn Biennial, much has happened within the granite walls of the Dodge Street monolith — most encouraging was the appointment of a new director, Graham W.J. Beal.

Prior to Beal's arrival, the power brokers on Joslyn's new mega-board made an abortive attempt to devote the museum to cowboy art. Luckily the public outcry reached even the rarified atmosphere of Omaha's corporate towers, and at the last minute Gene Autry rode in to eliminate future temptation by buying much of the Joslyn's western collection for his own museum.

Beal is said to be better at managing the board, and at directing its sometimes inappropriate artistic taste away from the Joslyn galleries.

Beal seems to be broaching the risky but necessary tact of Omahans not what they want from a museum, but what they need.

After several years of arts and crafts shows, cowboy art, and a Joslyn Biennial that would have looked more at home on the walls of a high school art gallery, the tide is turning.

The Joslyn Invitational

For the Joslyn Biennial, an outside juror selected one work per artist from a wide mid-western geographic area, based solely on submitted slides.

The new Joslyn Invitational will present a

small body of work by artists from Nebraska and its six contiguous states: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Each invitational will also focus on the media or processes considered — painting and free — standing sculpture for 1990.

After examining slides and other materials, Beal and Associate Curator Janet Farber visited studios and galleries to see the artists' work.

The chosen artists are:

- Michael Peter Cain, sculptor, Fairfield, Iowa.
- David Dunlap, painter, Iowa City, Iowa.
- Victoria Grube, painter, Iowa City, Iowa.
- Susan Cooper, sculptor, Denver, Colo.
- Kay Miller, painter, Boulder, Colo.
- Joan Backes, painter, Lenexa, Kan.
- Roger Y. Shimomura, painter, Lawrence, Kan.
- Jon Keith Swindell, sculptor, Vinland, Kans.
- Warren Rosser, sculptor, Kansas City, Mo.
- Gary Day, painter, Omaha, Neb.
- Martha Horvay, painter, Lincoln, Neb.
- Keith Jacobshagen, painter, Lincoln, Neb.
- Jun Kaneko, sculptor, Omaha, Neb.
- Jeff Freeman, painter, Vermillion, S.D.
- Signe Stuart, painter, Brookings, S.D.
- John Giarrizzo, painter, Powell, Wyo.

Joslyn will present an Invitational symposium, "Away from the Centers" Dispersal and Diversity" on Sept. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the museum's lecture hall.

MIDDLE EAST

US Troops Undermine UN When the World Needs It Most

by Frances Mendenhall

On August 16, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar warned the U.S. that unilateral action by U.S. war ships to enforce the sanctions against Iraq would be a violation of the U.N. Charter. On August 25, after a long debate between the supporters of using force, i.e. the U.K., France and the USA, and those urging nonmilitary actions, the USSR and China, the Security Council unanimously adopted a compromise resolution giving the individual members of the Council authorization to enforce the embargo. The resolution did not authorize unilateral action; it requested the assistance of all states on the Security Council that had voted in support (Cuba and Yemen abstained). It invited members to make maximum use of political and diplomatic measures, and it requested that concerned states coordinate their actions with and submit reports to the Military Staff Committee of the Security Council.

"Massive Troop Buildup" reads the Time cover story. Our troops, of course.

Nonmilitary methods should be tried first. They work against those who have admirers as well as those whom most of the world condemns. Furthermore, this may be the first world crisis that can be resolved by peaceful, or at least multilateral, means.

The U.N. embargo of Iraq and occupied Kuwait is a remarkable event, and the Bush administration deserves praise for bringing it about. It was unanimously and quickly approved, and it united the votes of China, the USSR, as well as the U.S. The U.N., for the first time in memory, is now free to operate without the risk of having its purposes thwarted by cold war agendas. The embargo is just the beginning. It could work; Iran, Syria, Turkey, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia will all cooperate. But it must be given time to take effect.

However, it is important to note that there is little precedent for what the Security Council approved August 25. It came close to crossing the line between an embargo and a blockade, which conventional thinking regards as an act of war. The U.S. should not be quick to assume the role of Middle East cop. At least we should be sure that the military actions we take are done with support of other members and coordinated with the Security Council.

So far, there is no U.N. authorization for our troop mobilization. It is also hard to imagine that the Saudis had 100,000 troops in mind when they requested our help. Troop movement of this magnitude could create a crisis of its own and should not be undertaken unilaterally.

We are going to need the U.N. more and

more, and now is the time to rally behind it. As Gwynne Dyer wrote recently:

For the past 40 years, a precarious kind of international order has been preserved by the Cold War. The bipolar division of the world was an ugly, dangerous business, but it did mean that hardly anybody fought without the permission of his super-power patron.

For better or worse, that system is now dead. And the only thing we have to put in its place is the long-neglected machinery of the U.N. Security Council, which legally bears the responsibility for enforcing world peace.

On other fronts, the U.S. and the USSR are cooperating to prevent added arms flow into Iraq (which, ironically, already has a sizeable portion of its arms from the two superpowers). Iraq has been denied many of the fruits of its conquest because of a multilateral freeze on Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets. Such pressure will take its toll; a coup from dissatisfied Iraqis could save the rest of the world from World War III.

Troop mobilization should be reserved for the U.N. Security Council. This is the only way the world body can ever be effective in resolving regional conflicts. Although a few other countries have lent support, our troop movement is essentially a unilateral act, not needed or justified by the U.N. position on the embargo.

The U.S. should negotiate to replace its troops with a U.N.-sponsored peacekeeping presence. Additionally, we should be actively seeking diplomatic solutions in the region. The Arab/Israeli/Palestinian conflict needs a comprehensive settlement. The Taif accords in Lebanon, which were supported by all nearby factions, should be implemented. The ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war should be transformed into a lasting treaty. And, most urgently, an international conference on the Iraq-Kuwait dispute should be strongly supported.

Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey has spoken out against U.S. troop involvement, and has advocated using our strategic oil reserve to minimize the hardships suffered because of the embargo. While Kerrey had U.S. farmers in mind, we should also keep in mind minimizing the hardships suffered in the Third World.

House candidate Ally Milder, on the other hand, has called for bombing Saddam.

The time has come for a real alternative to old-fashioned intervention. This instant mobilization suggests that the present administration is still thinking in old ways.

Largest Mobilization Since VietNam

No Watchdogs to Observe Forces in Saudi Arabia

by Thomas Collins

Upwards of 100,000 U.S. troops, the largest military force mobilized since Vietnam, are in or on their way to Saudi Arabia, and there isn't a single U.S. journalist accompanying them.

Whatever news there is about them will come second-hand from the government, which will reveal what it wants to reveal and conceal what it wants to conceal.

This is a significant departure from the democratic traditions of this country, and the third such offense by a Republican-conservative administration, but no one else seems disturbed about it in Congress or in the public. The press itself hardly alludes to it, as though it was too embarrassed or ashamed to mention it — or perhaps because, mistakenly, it does not want to appear unfriendly or unpatriotic.

Instead, it makes feeble protest and gath-

ers the news wherever it can — from Washington, where government officials can exercise considerable control over information, and from various capitals removed from the action. Television runs "DOD Tape" — that's the little insignia you see at the top of the screen for a few seconds. It stands for Department of Defense — government-issued news.

If the worst happens, and U.S. forces go into combat against the Iraqi army, government spokesmen will appear on TV and tell you how many were killed and wounded, under what circumstances and what the outcome was. You would have to take their word for everything because there would be no one from the press to cast an independent eye on the screen and make an unbiased and independent appraisal.

That is the way things have been done and are still done in many countries but never here

Continued on page 5

DO YOU HAVE A GAS PROBLEM?

- DO YOU SPEND MUCH OF YOUR INCOME ON GASOLINE?
- DO YOU THINK ABOUT GASOLINE OFTEN?
- DO YOU USE GASOLINE ALONE?
- DO YOU LIE ABOUT GASOLINE USAGE?
- DO YOU NEED GASOLINE TO ENJOY AN EVENING OUT?
- HAVE YOU EVER MISSED WORK BECAUSE OF GASOLINE?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THESE PRICES!

I GOTTA RUN TO KANSAS... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK

THANK GOD I GET 80 MILES TO A GALLON

I'LL BE A LITTLE LATE... I RAN OUT OF GAS...



MENZIES

~THE NEBRASKA OBSERVER~

MOBILIZATION

Media Show 'Unbecoming Enthusiasm' for War

As we write, at noon on Friday, August 10th, the United States is preparing for a war in the Middle East against Iraq, through a series of events that have taken place in just over a week. After almost a month of tension between Iraq and Kuwait — a dispute that was barely reported in the American press — the two countries opened diplomatic talks, but broke them off the next day, Wednesday, August 1st, when the Iraqis, it appears, demanded concessions of territory and \$10 billion without further discussion. The next morning, Iraqis invaded Kuwait, forced out the ruling family — the House of Sabah — installed their own government, and the next morning Americans found on their front pages a crisis that was a complete surprise to them.

'In a few days, the country had gone...to the verge of war without public discussion, and now, suddenly, Mr. Weinberger was warning against dissent...'

On August 3rd, as Congress adjourned for a month-long holiday, the President, at Camp David, was considering military options, and, according to press reports, it was decided on Saturday, the fourth, to send troops — a contingent that may come to 50,000 — and two Air Force squadrons and almost 50 ships, including the carriers Independence and Eisenhower, to defend Saudi Arabia. The orders were issued on Monday, the airlift of troops began early on Tuesday morning, and on Wednesday, the eighth, after briefing members of Congress, the President addressed the nation on television. He said:

"No one commits America's armed forces to a dangerous mission lightly, but after perhaps unparalleled international consultation, and exhausting every alternative, it became necessary to take this action....Our country now imports nearly half the oil it consumes and could face a major threat to its economic independence....I want to be clear about what we are doing and why. American does not seek conflict, nor do we seek to chart the destiny of other nations. But America will stand by her friends. The mission of our troops is wholly defensive. Hopefully, they will not be needed long. They will not initiate hostilities, but they will defend themselves, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and other friends in the Persian Gulf."

After the weekend meetings at Camp David that led to the President's decision, the Washington Post quotes a White House official: "All of us knew this was not Panama, this was not Grenada, this was a deal with no known end, no predictability and everything a presidency has — I mean peace and prosperity — at stake." Peace and prosperity,

however, cannot be said to belong to the President. They belong to the American people. It was their peace that was at stake, and it was they who were left in the dark. Any Americans who, like us, saw the newspaper headlines on Wednesday morning (the New York Post "WE'RE GOIN' IN!") and felt the ground rushing under their feet, could only wonder about the pros and cons of sending 50,000 American soldiers to the desert. In just one week, the country had taken a long step toward a huge expenditure of blood and treasure to confront an enemy most Americans did not know they had.

In the President's news conference on Wednesday, these exchanges took place:

Q: Could you share with us the precise military objective of this mission? Will the American troops remain there only until Saddam Hussein removes his troops from the Saudi Border?

A: I can't answer that because we have to — we have a major objective with those troops, which is the defense of...Saudi Arabia. So I think it's beyond the — I think it's beyond just the question of tanks along the border.

Q: Are you prepared for a long ground war in the Persian Gulf?

A: I'm not preparing for a long ground war in the Persian Gulf. There's not a war going on there right now.

As the USS Eisenhower steamed east, you could recall the old General's ringing line "I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity." But you did not find much debate on the issue of war taking place in the press. Instead, there was a steady, rising drumbeat of warrior writing, the famous heroism of newspaper columnists.

Suddenly, in the tabloids, Iraq's President Saddam Hussein became the "Butcher of Baghdad" and a Megalomaniac, and Munich was repeatedly cited. "Saddam Hussein is not Hitler, but the dynamism of his regime is Hitlerian. That suggests he will not be stopped other than by superior force," George Will wrote in the Washington Post. The Post's Chief foreign correspondent, Jim Hoagland, wrote, "Saddam Hussein, who began his career in the secretive and violent world of Iraqi politics as a teenage gunman, has changed the course of Arab and global politics with his invasion of Kuwait." In a later column he said, "Saddam respects only force and will respond to nothing else." The Wall Street Journal suggested a stronger and permanent American military presence: it saw in the President's actions "a systematic preparation for dispatching the Iraqi aggressor and setting up permanent protections for the world's oil sources around the Persian Gulf," and went on to explain, "The allied forces will be in position to take steps to ensure that there are

no further crises of this type in the Persian Gulf. That will entail a permanent force of some power in the region." In the Times, on Thursday, A.M. Rosenthal rose to a high pitch, predicting that Hussein would lead "the final Holy War as the one, true Muslim conqueror, crying destruction to the Jews and death to all Arabs who question his vision, course and glory," and the next day William Safire offered an imaginary monologue in Hussein's voice: "Today, Kuwait is mine; tomorrow, the Arab world."

The seemingly lone voice of American dissent was a column by conservatives Rowland Evans and Robert Novak on Wednesday, which began, "Overkill against Saddam Hussein as a Hitlerite madman thirsting for world conquest endows the Iraqi strongman with powers he does not possess." They quoted Arlen Specter, Republican member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, as saying Hussein had been badly mishandled by the United States, and explaining, "He is a rational man. He's a dangerous man, but he's someone that we have to deal with. After this is all over, we have to have a much better plan for dialogue and for trying to influence the man."

All week, as big black headlines marched toward war, those few words from Senator Specter were the only vestige of a debate on American policy we could find. On the subway, at the deli counter, in the line outside the movies, you could hear murmurs of doubt, dismay at the thought of American troops fighting a desert war, certain misgivings, but you did not find many misgivings in the press — rather, an unbecoming enthusiasm, throwback to the yellow journalism ("Butcher of Baghdad") that led to the Spanish American War in 1898. On Monday night, we tuned in ABC's "Nightline," a show on which one expects to hear debate, and what we found was two former Secretaries of Defense, Casper Weinberger and Donald Rumsfeld, and one former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William Crowe, discussing American military options, the Admiral standing in front of a map of the Middle East as if delivering a briefing. In a few days, the country had gone from peace to the verge of war without public discussion, and now, suddenly, Mr. Weinberger was warning against dissent, saying, "The United States has to be fully and completely resolved that they — that we — are to take this kind of action and willing to stay with it for some time." Congress had adjourned, hardly a soul in Washington had uttered so much as a sigh, but he said, ominously, "We can't fight a war in the Mideast and at the same time fight a war without our Congress....We have to be united as a nation that we need to do this, we have to do it, and be resolved to pursue it to the end, even though there may be some losses."

"I agree with the Secretary in the strongest

terms on that," Admiral Crowe said.

Mr. Rumsfeld agreed, too, and so, evidently, did Ted Koppel. "It is a notion Americans frequently have that all it's going to take is, you know, a few dozen sorties and then...it's all over and we can go home again," Koppel said, but he didn't press his guests to elaborate on that heroic phrase "pursue it to the end," or on what "some losses" might mean. The following evening, Mr. Koppel's broadcast originated live from CIA headquarters in Langley, Va.

The American-Iraqi War, if there is to be such a thing, is not about freedom, or really, about deterring aggression. This war is a war for oil. American soldiers are in Saudi Arabia because we are a society dependent on Arab oil. The still, small voice suggests that we stop and think. One of the inherent beauties of a democracy is the slowness to make war — the people are reluctant to suffer, to see their sons die, and their reluctance holds a government back — but last week the wheels raced forward, and, instead of questioning, the columnists cheered.

©1990 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.

Reprinted by permission:

No Watchdogs

Continued from page 4

— until recently. Now it is here, this extremely un-American way of communicating with the public by people who make a point of visiting flag factories and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance on television: this scarcely concealed contempt for the people's right to be informed about their government and, most important, about the fate of their sons in time of war and possible war.

At his press conference, President Bush brushed aside a question about the press pool that was supposed to be activated when U.S. troops begin to move into serious military situations. "That decision didn't come to me," he said.

If you were to believe him, no one in the administration — not Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney or Secretary of State James A. Baker III, or Brent Scowcroft of the National Security Council, the fellow who helped wipe former President Reagan's fingerprints from Iran-Contra — none of them had said to him: "What do you think we ought to do about the press, Mr. President? Do we take them along or leave them behind again?"

Therefore, Bush could say with a clear conscience: "That decision didn't come to me."

He also told an outright falsehood for the benefit of the cameras — "There's plenty of reporters in Saudi Arabia right now." There's none.

A Newsday article reprinted by permission.
Newsday, Inc., © 1990.

Confirmed: N-Disposal No Problem for Nebraska Medical Facilities

Why Did Doctors Support the Dump?

by Isabel Cohen

We have long known that the World-Herald would stretch and distort the truth to get what they want. This month the news which opponents of the nuke dump have always known, that the dump really has no usefulness to the hospitals of Nebraska, revealed that even doctors can be guilty of doing the same thing.

First the World-Herald's deviation. In its August 10 editorial, "Truth Wasn't Held Back in '88 Site Debate," it summarizes the view presented at the time by Dr. Sam Mehr, who headed up the drive to oppose Initiative 402. Mehr, it says, "said the wastes produced by nuclear diagnosis and treatment were so low in radioactivity that a few days' storage on the hospital premises was enough to make them

safe for conventional disposal." Mehr further believed, it told us, "that a low-level storage facility could become more important to nuclear medicine in the future."

This, as anyone who remembers Mehr's frightening rhetoric knows, was not what we heard in 1988, when Nebraskans were snowed with a blitz of pre-election propaganda supporting our staying in the Compact. In fact, we could find no record of nuke dump supporters who brought to light the facts about the isotopes used for research, diagnosis, and treatment, i.e. that they necessarily have such a short half life--almost always under two years--that they would pose no problem for on site storage. We do, however, remember the supporters of 402 bringing this up.

The Saturday before the vote, Nov. 5, 1988, Mehr and his group got a large headline: "Medical Officers Urge Against Initiative 402." We read that "Officers of five medical groups said Friday that passage of Initiative 402 would hurt the health care of Nebraskans."

Dr. Mehr, opening a press conference at Bergan Mercy Hospital, said he "felt compelled to campaign against Initiative 402 because it poses a significant threat to the health of Nebraskans." He and his colleagues said "the use of radioactive substances has played a major role in protecting Nebraskans' health. If Nebraska withdraws from the Compact, Nebraskans would face curtailment of medical services for lack of a place to store radioactive wastes." (emphasis added) Nebraskans Against 402 put out a pamphlet quoting Mehr, photographed in his lab coat, along with other doctors. Mehr was quoted "If Nebraska turns its back on the Compact, the nuclear medicine procedures that have proven so beneficial to many Nebraska patients could be adversely impacted. Medical procedures could be limited and health-care costs could go up."

So now it turns out that Nebraska medical research facilities generate almost no nuke waste. UNMC is the *only* (emphasis added) source of waste requiring disposal, and last year it generated only 45 cubic feet. Or, as dump opponent Paul Allen of Bristow, Neb. discovered in a DOE report, between 1985 and 1987, "no low-level radioactive waste had been shipped to commercial disposal sites by any (emphasis added) medical facility in the five states, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and

Louisiana."

One wonders what the source of all this concern from the medical community was. Nuke dump opponents never suggested that anyone was influenced by money, although there was a million and a half dollars in out of state utility money funding the campaign. UNL economist Greg Hayden did, however, suggest at the time, that some of the "experts" really weren't. One he mentioned was UNL biology professor John Janovy, Jr., billed in the anti-402 literature as a "Leading Nebraska Environmentalist." Janovy, said Hayden, has "no expertise on the subject." When asked about Hayden's allegation, Janovy said to the World-Herald that he "wouldn't argue with the statement that he has no expertise in those areas. But he said that is not necessary for making an intelligent choice."

Mehr, who spoke at length about the best health care priorities for Nebraskans, had moved to Nebraska two years before the campaign, according to the Department of Licensure and Standards.

What are the medical authorities saying now?

When asked to comment the fact that no medical waste is to be stored at the facility, Dr. Mehr said he had not been following the political implications of the Compact and did not feel qualified to talk about it now.

Dr. Mehr was also unaware that the Medical Society of New York is considering a resolution asking the American Medical Association to revoke its support of the national plan for storing low-level radioactive waste. New York's idea, spurred by a report by the Nuckolls County Monitoring Committee, is to store waste in retrievable facilities at the place it is generated and to keep waste from hospitals separate from power plant waste. The key recommendation in the Nuckolls County report: "Radioactive waste should be stored at point of generation, thus diminishing the areas, land, water, materials, people, and other living organisms contaminated and reducing transportation risks, costs, and liabilities and emergency response demands." When asked to comment on this idea for storing radioactive waste, Dr. Mehr referred me to other nuclear physicians who have kept up with the politics of the issue. He did say that any alternatives that came up would definitely be worth looking into.

The Dr. Mehr of 1990 seems overwhelmingly rational. I had to remind myself after our conversation that he, the source of the 1988 scare tactics, was now effectively giving out "no comment."

Author's postscript: It is my feeling that if the two Sams (Welsch, co-chair of Nebraskans for the Right to Vote, and Mehr) had gotten together back in 1988, an agreeable settlement could have been realized. Dr. Mehr seems to be a very reasonable man who got caught up in a big lie.

A partial list

Nebraska's leading physicians are AGAINST #402

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Samuel H. Mehr, M.D. Nuclear Medicine Physician Omaha | Robert D. Harry, M.D. General Surgery Lexington | Richard L. O'Brien, M.D. Dean, School of Medicine Creighton University Omaha |
| Daniel J. Rosenquist, M.D. Family Practice Columbus | M. Allen Tompkins, M.D. Pediatrician Grand Island | Donna Nelson, M.D. Family Practice Omaha |
| Kenneth K. Pavlik, M.D. General Practitioner Verdigris | Richard E. Garlinghouse, M.D. Obstetrician & Gynecologist, retired Lincoln | N. Leon Books, M.D. Family Practice Broken Bow |
| Anne K. Morse, M.D. Internal Medicine Omaha | Jeanette L. Masek, M.D. Internal Medicine Lincoln | David H. Filipi, M.D. President-Elect, Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians Omaha |
| Diana Doyle, M.D. Anesthesiologist Omaha | Hal Thaut, M.D. Family Practice Beatrice | N. Patrick Kenney, M.D. Radiologist Omaha |
| Dwight Cherry, M.D. Immediate Past President Nebraska Medical Association | Elmer E. Glenn, M.D. Surgeon Hastings | |
| John A. Hagstrom, M.D. Director of Radiology Childrens Memorial Hospital | Charles A. Dobry, M.D. Radiologist Omaha | James N. Sureck, M.D. Ophthalmology North Platte |
| Robert E. Butler, M.D. Family Practice, retired Minden | R.M. Penor, M.D. Family Practice Chadron | Ronald Anderson, M.D. Internal Medicine Consultant Blair |
| Thomas F. Eastman, M.D. Orthopedic Surgeon Lexington | J.M. Herman, M.D. Family Practice Beatrice | John H. Floyd, M.D. Radiologist Scottsbluff |
| Paul J. Nelson, M.D. Pediatrics Omaha | William T. Kemp, M.D. General Practice Omaha | T.S. Sorenson, M.D. Internal Medicine Scottsbluff |
| John P. Reilly, M.D. Obstetrician & Gynecologist Grand Island | Donald G. Wirtle, M.D. Family Practice Grand Island | Patrick J. McKenna, M.D. Director, Radiation Oncology, Bergan Mercy Hospital |
| Robert J. Anderson, M.D. Endocrinology/ Internal Medicine Omaha | Gerald E. "Jay" Mathe, Jr., M.D. Family Practice Sidney | Charles F. Milazzo, M.D. Pediatrician Omaha |
| David J. Hoelting, M.D. Family Physician Pender | T.J. Lemke, Jr., M.D. Family Practice Columbus | Roger Dilley, M.D. Internal Medicine Fremont |
| Mamoud Bina, M.D. Neurologist North Platte | Kenton Shaffer, M.D. Pediatrician Kearney | William G. Heusel, M.D. Family Practice Hooper |
| A.J. Lombardo, M.D. Pediatrician Omaha | Burton L. Thomson, M.D. General Surgeon Aurora | Howard B. Hunt, M.D. Radiologist Omaha |
| J. Michael Adams, M.D. Internal Medicine Fremont | Lennie Mercier, M.D. Orthopedic Surgeon Omaha | Barry L. Flanders, M.D. Radiologist Omaha |
| Wm. J. Chleborad, M.D. General Surgeon Fremont | O.A. Kostal, M.D. Internist/Cardiologist Hastings | Mark Johnson, M.D. Family Practice Aurora |
| Charles G. Erickson, M.D. Pediatrician Lincoln | Frank Kamm, M.D. Family Practice Hastings | Gordon D. Adams, M.D. Surgeon Norfolk |
| David M. Rankin, M.D. Radiologist Omaha | Gary Chingren, M.D. Orthopedic Surgeon Hastings | Christine A. Webster, M.D. Pathology Omaha |
| Alex T. Stolarsky, M.D. Radiologist Omaha | Hiram B. Walker, M.D. Family Physician Kearney | Jack R. Zastora, M.D. Radiation Oncologist Omaha |
| | John C. Williams, M.D. Radiologist Scottsbluff | |

(Partial list; titles and affiliations for identification purposes only.)

The above box is taken from a pamphlet circulated by Nebraskans Against 402 in 1988.



Dedicated to an appreciation of Books

Art coffee and Conversation

The Antiquarium

-Books
-Art Galleries
-Records
-Magazines

1215 Harney Street
Omaha

the fifteen dollar business card ad page

Registered Representative

**Metropolitan Life**
AND AFFILIATED COMPANIES**Denny Holland, CLU**
Senior Sales Representative
Service From 1954Triangle Executive Center
1309 Harlan Drive, Suite 102, Bellevue, NE 68005
Office: (402) 291-7030 Residence: (402) 342-4889**STEVEN M. DENENBERG, M.D.**

FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY

7640 PACIFIC STREET OMAHA, NE 68114 PHONE: 402-391-7640

PC Professionals, Inc.Robert Andrew Foster
(402) 571-98243015 No. 90th Street
Omaha, NE 68134**SHARP, MUNDY, ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES INC.**

ROBERT E. MUNDY, ChFC, C.L.U.

REGENCY PROFESSIONAL PLAZA, 260 REGENCY PARKWAY
OMAHA, NE 68114 (402) 397-5440**massage therapy****sandy acquila**omaha
therapeutic
massage center

397-8018

Roger Carroll Construction3034 Lincoln Blvd.
Omaha, NE 68131
(402) 342-5870**36th and Leavenworth****Grand Central Market
(G.C.M.)****Old World Recipe
Sausages****Observer Readers are
your kind of people;
put your card here
for \$15****Dundee Book Company**5105 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68132

402-558-9119 9-9 Mon-Sat Noon-5 Sun

hair • art**556 0220
3924½ farnam****Richard D. Fitzgerald, D.D.S.**
FAMILY DENTISTRY5709 MILITARY AVENUE
OFFICE 551-1757OMAHA, NE 68104
RES. 397-5805**OMAHA INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS***Come Dance With Us!*Sunday Evenings
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.*Or Let Us Dance For You!*

— For Information Call —

Alice Love
455-9137SuAnn Witt
339-4660

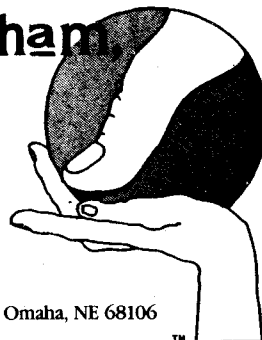
(402) 341-0994

J. MICHAEL FITZGERALD
AttorneyCARPENTER, ROWEN AND FITZGERALD, P.C.
THE LAW BUILDING 500 SOUTH 18 STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102**RobinsonAbraham**
INC.*The Bodymind Approach*Stephen J. Abraham, M.S.
CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR
MASSAGE THERAPIST

402/553-5976

5550 Mason

Omaha, NE 68106

Free Estimates
1-3 Week DeliveryMaximum Quality
Minimum Price*The Soft Touch*Verticals, Mini Blinds, Custom Draperies, Duets
Everything For Your WindowsDelaney G. Tarsney
391-3525
Home - 558-9456

901 North 90th

Call 551-2629 for a monthly Business Card Ad Plan

Does Abortion Harm Women? Report Says 'No'

by Frances Mendenhall

A frequently cited belief in the August 8 trial of 11 anti-abortion demonstrators who had blocked the entrance at the 50th and L abortion clinic, was that abortion harms women.

This belief is so deeply held by pro-lifers that it, perhaps even more than the belief in the worth of the fetus, will make compromise between the two sides extremely difficult.

That the fetus has worth is something most people know in their hearts, and many pro-choice people will admit that abortion is a loss and a tragedy; there is room for common ground here.

But no such common ground will be found on the question of whether abortion harms women. On the one hand, it is unthinkable to pro-life people that something as heinous as murdering her child could not scar a woman. On the other hand, the statistics do not point to increased physical or emotional harm to the woman compared to pregnancy. There is no response from the pro-life community to this except to claim that our society is so corrupt that people no longer feel guilt when they ought to.

Dr. C. Everett Koop, the former Surgeon General, is one who wanted badly to believe that abortion damages women. He looked into the matter for President Reagan, but came back empty-handed. Dr. Koop said in 1988: "...there is no doubt in my mind that there are physical effects of abortion and mental effects of abortion. They are, I think, a very tiny percentage of the number of people that are aborted....I don't think there is any way that one could do an honest report and

come up with such overwhelming statistics that you could use it as a weapon against abortion itself."

Dr. Koop was supposed to publish a report on his findings, but he held back the report and instead sent a letter to the President saying that there were no studies on the subject that would hold up under scrutiny and that no conclusions could be drawn. Later a congressional subcommittee took a look at the unpublished Koop study, as well as what others had turned up, and published a report of its own. Following are some conclusions from that report.

Abortion-Related Deaths

According to Dr. David Grimes, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Preventive Medicine at the University of Southern California, and former chief of the Abortion Surveillance Branch at CDC, since the legalization of abortion following *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, "the risk of death from abortion has decreased more than fivefold to less than one death per 100,000 procedures, which is less than the risk of death from an injection of penicillin."

Abortion and Future Pregnancies

Dr. Carol Hogue of the CDC reviewed 150 studies from 21 countries. She concluded that when women with similar socio-economic status, race, and other traits are compared, abortion does not affect subsequent fertility. In addition, the women who have had the most common type of abortion (vacuum aspira-

tion in the first trimester), are at no additional risk regarding the outcome of the pregnancies in terms of miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, preterm delivery or low birthweight. However, there were risks of miscarriage, low birthweight, and ectopic pregnancy associated with abortions performed by dilation and curettage.

Post-Abortion Trauma

The American Psychological Association concluded that despite the flaws in the research, there is so little evidence of psychiatric problems following abortion, and so much evidence of relief, that therefore abortion does not cause more psychiatric problems than unwanted pregnancy. They also argued that given the large number of abortions,* any significant psychiatric problems would have become very obvious to the mental health system in the last 15 years.

*Every year 3 percent of women of reproductive age will have an abortion.

Abortion and Contraception

Fifty-one percent of the women who obtain abortions report that they used contraceptives during the month in which they became pregnant, an additional 40 percent had previously used contraceptives, and only 9 percent had never used a contraceptive.

The Surgeon General concluded that an effective way to reduce abortions is to reduce unwanted pregnancies by improving contraceptive use, including the correct use of available contraceptives.

The Minority Report

Dissenting views were published along with the subcommittee report. The dissenters said, "...The Committee Report is seriously flawed and should be rejected. It is a pro-abortion manifesto that deliberately ignores compelling questions regarding human life, which are central to the issue."

The minority did not seem to regard to the lack of harm done to women by abortion as a good thing, but a problem to be solved: "Common sense tells us that a woman who believes abortion is murder is likely to have a more difficult time coping with an abortion, compared with a woman who believes abortion is nothing more than the removal of unwanted body tissue. In fact, the anecdotal testimony presented to the Subcommittee confirmed this intuition. Consequently, it seems to indicate that the more society learns about the health effects suffered by a pre-born child who is aborted, the more we will impact the psychological response experienced by women who have these abortions. Therefore, it appears to be a gross error in scientific inquiry to ignore the health consequences of the unborn child."

So the question comes down to this: Since most women do not suffer psychologically from abortion, should they be reeducated so that they will?

In a previous article, I described the ethical dilemma of abortion as being like Sophie's Choice, from the novel in which the heroine was required to choose one of her two children to be killed in a concentration camp. There are some women for whom abortion is that heinous. But I still believe that for all women, whether or not they feel remorse, it is the task of society not to add to the remorse, but to remove their need for abortion. Dr. Koop and I agree.

The report cited in the article above is called "Federal Role in Determining the Medical and Psychological Impact of Abortion on Women." It is available free from the Government Printing Office. Ask for House Report 101-392.

Why Abortion Should Not Be Illegal

by Father Frank Cordaro

Frank Cordaro is a Roman Catholic Priest, currently in prison for his opposition to nuclear weapons.

I went to an abortion clinic and got arrested because I felt the need to be consistent with my opposition to abortion vis-a-vis my stand on nuclear weapons. I have been taking the U.S. Catholic Bishops to task publicly about being consistent in their pro-life stands. I felt I needed to do the same. yet I differ with the Bishops on the abortion issue in strategy and implementation. I seek personal conversion, not criminal indictment for abortionists.

I do not believe the criminalization of abortion will solve this moral problem. On a very practical level, it will not work. In our society, laws work best when there is a broad consensus among the people of the need for the law. There is no such consensus about abortion in our country. To make abortions illegal will create a permanent state of confrontation between the state and a large percentage of its citizens. This is not good for the country nor will it stop abortions.

Yet my opposition to the criminalization

of abortion has a deeper and more theological basis. I don't believe the Church should be asking the court system to do our work for us. Abortion is a terrible reality in our society. It is indicative of a real moral crisis. Instead of trying to make criminals of women who face this awful dilemma, we need to be asking the question: "What forces women into making these terrible choices?" We should be trying to change the systems and structures, attitudes and values in our society that put women in this unfortunate place.

I believe the Church needs to first look at its own position on abortion. On the whole it is unbalanced and sexist. What we seem to be saying to women, is that a woman's violence of abortion is always wrong and must be condemned, yet the traditional male violence of war and economic injustice is tolerable and acceptable, depending on the circumstances. This is not fair.

The Church's sexist bias is most apparent in its birth control stand. If Jesus were alive today and we set before Him a nuclear weapon and told Him what such a weapon could do, and we set before him a condom and told him

what they were for, I am convinced Jesus would be repelled by the nuclear weapon and condemn it outright, yet He would not know what we were talking about with a condom. A Church that has more moral clarity about the use of condoms than it does on the possession of nuclear weapons is seriously unbalanced.

I believe this unbalance is directly related to the systemic sexism built into the institutional Church's organization. As the all white South African government of Apartheid is racist, so the all male hierarchy of the Catholic Church is sexist. If women had an equal share in leadership and decision making in our Church the essence of our Church's position on abortion would be the same, but the strategy and implementation of our position would be different. I believe it is this basic unbalance and sexist structure that hampers the Church in the larger society to come to terms with the abortion dilemma.

The above opinions are clearly in the minority within the larger Church and a dissenting view. I offer them as honest reflections about a very difficult and painful subject.

Do you use
PageMaker?
Are Laser Printers
up your alley?
If so, the Observer
has a volunteer
opportunity for
you.

Call 551-2629

TRUMP, the Bankruptcy; Souter the Rail-splitter

Dear Lulu:



Dear Lulu:

My 20-year-old son is an avid American history buff, the American Revolution being his favorite period. His heroes include Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and especially Ben Franklin. As parents, we encourage this interest and were very pleased when the local news station produced the recent "Franklin Files." We haven't seen the program — I crochet and tat in the evenings and my husband is involved with the Rubik Cube, but our son hasn't missed an episode. He says he really understands it. I just want to tell your readers that it pays off to be a concerned parent in these bad times. Our son wants to be a bank president and give lavish parties for

local dignitaries. Isn't that nice?

Love, Darn Proud in Douglas County.

Dear Darn Proud:

If your son understands the "Franklin Files," he's the only one who does, and he should call Senator Schmit immediately.

Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu:

I attended my wife's high school reunion this summer and we had a lot of fun. But it would have been a lot nicer if they hadn't of invited a whole bunch of old people who showed up. What should I do?

Love, Retired in Ravenna

Dear Retired:

Look in the mirror.

Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu:

I'm very interested in the Judge Souter that President Bush has nominated to sit on the United States of American Supreme Court. I keep thinking I've seen him someplace before. What is this?

Love, Supreme Court-Watcher in Superior

Dear Supreme:

You've picked up on something all the news media have missed. Judge David Hackett Souter (it rhymes with "weird hooter"),

bachelor Republican Episcopalian, is actually that old rail-splitter, Abe Lincoln, come back to life at five feet, four inches, after a terrible diet, with a 5 o'clock shadow that makes Richard Nixon look like Shirley Temple. Is he liberal or conservative? Are we in Trouble? Will he date Sandy O'Connor? These questions will have to wait, but thanks for asking.

Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu:

Our lovely daughter Marie has always admired Donald Trump so we saved all the money from last year's crop and took her to Atlantic City to stay at Mr. Trump's Taj Mahal Hotel. We just got back and I wanted you to know what a thrill it was for us when we drove up there and saw Mr. Trump's Taj Mahal Hotel. We just got back and I wanted you to know what a thrill it was for us when we drove up there and saw Mr. Trump's name in great big letters. Fortunately for us, Mr. Trump has marked everything he owns with his name, so we won't miss it — Trump Castle, Trump Shuttle, Trump Bankruptcy. At \$200.00 per night, my husband Al wasn't too pleasant to the help, especially because we had to pay for everything in advance in and in cash, just like Mr. Trump. However, it was great that Mr. Trump himself hauled our bags to our room. Please tell all your readers to go quick and have the fun we did.

Love, a Trump Fan in Terrytown

Dear Fan:

"Quick" may not be soon enough but thanks for sharing your thrills.

Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu:

Who is this Senator Jesse Herpes from North Carolina and what are all these dirty pictures he keeps complaining about? Where can I get some? What is the National Endowment for Parts? What parts? Should I be doing something? What's going on?

Love, A Friend in Friend

Dear Friend:

Senator Jesse Helms is concerned about some of your money that was used to make dirty pictures so he's going to help us. He's only looking out for what's best for you. Some of us have lost our fathers so Senator Helms is filling in. If we're not careful, everybody will start thinking they can say or draw anything they want. What are we supposed to — ignore obscenities? Of course a Defense Department toilet seat for \$800 is a little obscene, but that's another question. If we're not careful, we'll start thinking for ourselves! Imagine where that would put us!

Love, Lulu

Waste Generators On Environmental Control Council

Continued from page 2

caused by salaries that are 30 to 80 percent lower than salaries paid elsewhere for comparable jobs. The New Federalism has created another dilemma, a reduction of federal funds. Nebraska has depended on the federal government to provide 75 to 80 percent of the department's funds. So far, the state has not made up the difference.

Meanwhile, DEC's workload increases. Federal regulations are getting stiffer.

Officials Thought Lead Problem Already Solved

The department does not have a good enforcement record. Take Omaha's lead problem, for example. Lead has been a problem for at least 20 years, yet as recently as this year air emissions have exceeded federal regulations. In 1988, federal emission limits were exceeded three out of four quarters of the year; the same was true in 1989. Yet when the World-Herald asked about this, Gene Robinson, DEC's head of Air Quality Control, expressed surprise. He said officials thought it had been solved years ago.

Water pollution is another growing concern. Nitrate levels near or above the EPA's standards of 10 parts per million have been documented in nearly 20 percent of Nebraska's rural communities. DEC is implementing Best Management Practices, a program targeted at

farmers to protect water from agricultural pollution. The adequacy of this approach may depend on how rapidly water pollution continues to increase. The World-Herald reported on August 19, 1990, that nitrates in city water systems was a growing problem in Nebraska.

The Glenn/Heck study also dealt with the liability issue. The main concern was in regard to recent developments concerning the monetary liability of state government under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. This amended version of the Superfund Act of 1986 allows private citizens to sue states to protect the environment. This has been a big issue in the low-level nuclear waste site debate, but one which the state fails to address. No one seems to be willing to face the fact that waste generators will leave the states holding the bag.

Average Citizens Not Represented

One would think that DEC would have its hands full. However, DEC welcomes with open arms all manner of waste merchants willing to use Nebraska as a dumping ground for out-of-state garbage. The attraction is Nebraska's weak environmental laws.

When Sen. Scofield first expressed her concerns with EEC and DEC, one of the main issues was the feeling by average citizens that

their interests were not represented. Anyone involved with DEC soon realizes it has its own agenda. There is not only a lack of fair play, but the officials never debate the issues. Instead, what is heard is doublespeak, erroneous material or attempts to smear the citizens by saying "They are emotional, or fearful." Never mind that the citizens pay their salaries. This has been common political fare.

Recently, Admiral James Watkins, head of

the Department of Energy, remarked that to turn the department around, he would have to first erase the arrogance that dominated it during its 35 year history. The arrogance Watkins referred to was the attitude that DOE would dispose of its nuclear waste regardless of what the people think. Such an attitude, he felt, was doomed to fail.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Control could profit from such advice.

*Support the outfit that looks out for
the homeless*

*Dorothy Day House
Bakeless Bake Sale*

*Send what you would spend buying ingredients,
heating your oven, driving to and fro, or purchasing
baked goods at a Bake Sale.*

\$5? \$10 \$15 \$25 \$100

*Make checks payable to:
Dorothy Day House
P.O. Box 31022*

*Omaha, NE 68111
Please write "bake sale" in check memo.*

a r t e x h i b i t s

Gallery Listings**Adam Whitney Gallery**

8725 Shamrock Road, Omaha 393-1051
Hours: 10-5 Monday through Saturday

Antiquarium Gallery

1215 Harney Street, Omaha 341-8077

Artists' Cooperative Gallery

405 So. 11th Street, Omaha 342-9617
Hours: Wed.-Thurs. 11-5; Fri. & Sat. 11-10; Sunday noon-5.
Sept. 1: 7-10 p.m. Ron Sykes, Tom Hubbell and Gary Townswick opening.
Through September: Sykes, Hubbell and Townswick.

Bellevue College Gallery

Galvin Road at Harvell Drive, Bellevue 293-3732
Hours: 8-9:30 M-F; 9-5 Sat.; 1-5 Sun.

Bemis New Gallery

614 So. 11th, Omaha 341-7130
Hours: 11-5 daily.

Burkholder Project

719 P Street, Lincoln 477-3305
Hours: 10-5 Monday thru Saturday
Alan R. Smith, September; Anne Burkholder, October; Holiday Gifts, December.

Cathedral Arts Project

St. Cecilia's Cathedral
701 No. 40th Street 558-3100
Hours 1-3:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday and by appointment.

Creighton Fine Arts Gallery

Creighton University
27th and California, Omaha 280-2509
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-4 Sunday.
Sept. 12: Opening for Manriquez and Samotis, 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Sept. 12-Oct. 11: Mixed media by Bonnie Manriquez and Nancy Samotis.

Gallery 72

2709 Leavenworth, Omaha 345-3347
Sept. 13: Opening for "Perceptions," 7:30-10 p.m.
Sept. 13-Oct. 11: "Perceptions," work by five artists whose work was previously shown at the gallery and will be in the Joslyn Invitational exhibit: Kay Miller, Warren Rosser, Gary Day, Signe Stuart and Jeff Freeman.

Garden of the Zodiac

Old Market Passageway, 1042 Howard, Omaha. 341-1877

Haydon Gallery

8th and R, Hardy Building, Lincoln 475-5421
Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5.

Haymarket Art Gallery

119 So. 9th Street, Lincoln 475-1061
Hours: 10-4:30 Tues.-Sat.; 1-4 Sunday.
Mondays by appointment.
Sept. 9-30: Jim Ray and Ed Fennel, paintings and blown glass.
Oct. 7-28: Jan Vanderlinden and Gary Martin, watercolors and ceramics. Nov. 4-25: Daniel Driggs and John Dennison, acrylics and ceramics. Nov. 16-Dec. 24: "Christmas at Haymarket." Jan. 1991, "Impact," 35 Nebraska Women Artists.

Hillmer Art Gallery

College of St. Mary, 1901 So. 72nd Street, Omaha 399-2621
Hours: 1-5 daily except Friday.

Iowa Western Community College Fine Arts Gallery

2700 College Road, Council Bluffs 325-3352
Hours: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Jewish Community Center

333 So. 132nd St., Omaha 334-8200
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-Th.; 8-5 Fri.; 1-7 Sat.; 1-7 Sun.

Joslyn Art Museum

2200 Dodge, Omaha 342-3300
Hours: 10-5 Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10-9 Thurs.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$2 for adults, \$1 under 12.
Free Saturday before noon and to members.
Sept. 15 - Nov. 4: "Midlands Invitational 1990."
Oct. 20 - Dec. 16: "The Modern Pictorialism of D.J. Ruzicka."
For further details, see article, page 9.

Local Artists Exchange

Standard Blue
1415 Harney, Omaha

Metro Arts Artspace

601 So. 16th Street 341-7910
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-4 or by appointment.
Through Sept. 30: "Don Doll Photographs"

Museum of Nebraska Art

24th and Central Ave., Kearney (308) 234-8559
Hours: 1-5 Tuesday through Saturday

Passageway Gallery

417 So. 11th, Omaha, 341-1910
Hours: 11-5 M-W; 11-9 Thurs.; 11-10 Fri. & Sat.; 12-5 Sun.

Photographer's Gallery, Inc.

4831 Dodge Street, Omaha 551-5731
Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 Sun.; Closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

12th and R Streets, UNL Campus, Lincoln 472-2461
Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10-5; Sun. 2-9; Thurs.-Sat. 10-5 and 7-9; closed Mon.
Through Sept. 9: "John Martin: Watercolors."
Through Oct. 14: "John Pfahl: Altered Landscapes," a portfolio of 48 manipulated photographs from the Sheldon's permanent collection.
Through Oct. 28: "In Black and White," a selection of works, mostly from the Sheldon permanent collection, which use only black and white. Selected by Curator Daphne Deeds.

13th Street Gallery

1264 So. 13th Street, Omaha
Mixed media

University of Nebraska at Omaha Gallery

62nd and Dodge Streets, Omaha 554-2686
Hours: 8-5 Monday-Friday

Sioux City Art Center

513 Nebraska Street
Sioux City, Iowa

Art Institute of Chicago

Michigan at Adams
Chicago, Ill. (312) 443-3600
Hours: 10:30-4:30 Mon., W, Wed.-Fri.; 10:30-8 Tues.; 10-5 Sat.; noon-5 Sun.
Suggested Admission: \$5; seniors, students, \$2.50.
Continuing: Ellsworth Kelly. Six paintings conceived especially for the museum's Sculpture Court.
Through Oct. 28: "Lenore Tawney Retrospective."
Sept. 8 - Nov. 25: "From Poussin to Matisse: The Russian Taste for French Painting."
Sept. 15 - Dec. 2: "The New Vision: Photography Between the World Wars, Ford Motor Company Collection at The Metropolitan Museum of Art."
Oct. 13 - Jan. 2: "Ed Paschke: Paintings," and "Drawings by Ed Paschke."
Nov. 21 - March 31, 1991: "Coverlets and Quilts."

Des Moines Art Center

4700 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa (515) 277-4405
Hours: 11-5 T, W, F, Sat.; 11-9 Thurs.; noon-5 Sun.; closed Mon.

Museum of Contemporary Art

237 E. Ontario
Chicago, Ill. (312) 280-5161
Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; noon-5 Sunday

Museum of Contemporary Photography

Columbia College, 600 So. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill. (312) 663-5554

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

4525 Oak Street, Kansas City, Mo. (816) 561-4000
Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$3 adults; \$1 students.
Permanent collection free on Sat.
Through Sept. 2: "Japonisme Comes to America, 1876-1925"; "George N. Barnard: Photographer of Sherman's Campaign," and "Drawings by Francesco and Giovanni Carlo Bibiena."
Oct. 7 - Nov. 25: "Jacques Lipchitz: A Retrospective."
Oct. 14 - Dec. 2: "A Spectrum of Innovation: Color in American Printmaking 1890-1960."
Dec. 16 - Feb. 10, 1991: "The Modern Poster: The Museum of Modern Art."

Peace Museum

430 W. Erie, Chicago, Ill. (312) 440-1860
Hours: noon to 5 daily; noon to 8 Thursday
Current: "Everyone Has the Right to..."
Art interpreting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
Permanent Exhibits: "The Unforgettable Fire," drawings by survivors of atomic bombings; "The Ribbon," textile art on the themes of life and hope.

Terra Museum of American Art

666 North Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. (312) 664-3939
Hours: Tues. noon to 8; Wed. - Sat. 10-5; Sunday noon to 5

Walker Gallery

Vineland Place, Minneapolis, Minn. (612) 375-7622
(612) 375-7636 Recording
Permanent: Cowles Conservatory: Horticultural installation and "Standing Glass Fish" by Gehry.

Calendar Item Announcement? Call John Boyd, 341-9313

a r e a e v e n t s

EVENTS

Through Sept. 3:

Septemberfest, a community festival celebrating the working men and women of Omaha. Features a midway, entertainment, food and beer gardens, and displays. Held at the Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, noon-1 a.m., \$2 admission.

Sept. 1&2 :

La Festa Italiana features Italian food, music, dancing and entertainment Sat. noon-midnight and Sun. noon-10 p.m. at Peony Park, 81st and Cass. Admission is \$4.25.

Sept. 1:

Main Man of Nebraska Contest, a benefit for the Great Plains Black Museum, at Peony Park, 8100 Cass. Cost is \$10 for the 8 p.m. event. Call 345-2212 for information.

Sept. 2:

Great Missouri River Raft Regatta, a river raft race of two and four-person teams on inflatable rafts, followed by a free victory dance at Bellevue's Haworth Park. Call 453-8161 for information on entering the race.

Sept. 2:

German Days at the German-American Society, 3717 So. 120th Street, noon to midnight, free admission.

Sept 2:

Council Bluffs Airshow at the Council Bluffs Municipal Airport from 1 to 4 p.m. Exhibits and rides 10 a.m.-noon. Admission \$3.

Sept 2:

Ft. Atkinson State Historical Park general interpretive day from 1-5 p.m. features living history displays. The park is in Ft. Calhoun, nine miles north of Omaha. Call (402) 468-5611 for more information.

Sept. 3:

Labor Day Parade starts at 10 a.m. in downtown Omaha.

Sept. 6-9:

Arrows to Aerospace, a festival in Bellevue features a carnival, '50s dance, pancake feed and parade. For more information call 292-6906.

Sept 8:

Collector's Choice at the Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge. Admission for this fund-raising event is \$125. Guests are entitled to vote for one of several contemporary artworks to be added to the museum's permanent collection. Call 342-3300 for more information.

Sept. 8-9:

Rockbrook Village Art Fair features arts and crafts from 160 artists. Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free.

Sept. 9-15:

Prairie Appreciation Week at the Desoto National Wildlife Refuge visitor's center. Free. Call (712) 642-4121 for more information.

Sept. 15:

The Kinetic Sculpture Challenge at Dodge Park Marina, is a "race" of vehicle "sculptures" in which cheating is encouraged. Call 896-6744 for more information.

Sept. 19-23:

4-H Livestock Exposition at Ak-Sar-Ben field, 63rd & Center Street. Free admission. Call 556-2305 for information.

Sept. 19-23:

Ak-Sar-Ben Championship Rodeo at Ak-Sar-Ben, 63rd & Center at 7:30 p.m. Wed.-Sun. and 2 p.m. Sun. Admission is \$8. Call 556-2305 for reservations.

Sept. 19-23:

River City Roundup, a celebration of Omaha's agricultural and western heritage features events city-wide. See story in this issue for details, or call 554-8855.

Sept. 21:

10th Annual Wiley Phillips Wild Game Feast is held at the Great Plains Black Museum, 2213 Lake Street. The wild game dinner runs from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and costs \$6. Call 345-2212 for more information.

Sept. 21-23:

Heartland of America Park and Fountain Opening Celebration at Heartland of America Park, 8th and Douglas. Features the premiere of the new fountain, entertainment, and other activities from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Fri; noon-9 p.m. Sat. and noon-6 p.m. Sun. See story page 3, for more details.

FILM

Sheldon Film Theater. The Sheldon Film Theater presents foreign and independent films at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery on the University of Nebraska Lincoln campus, 12th and R. Call (402) 472-5353 for more information. The schedule as of press time included:

Sept. 6-9, 13-22:

"The 22nd Tournee of Animation," screening at 7 & 9:15 p.m. with matinees Sat. at 12:45 & 3 p.m.; Sun. at 2:30 & 4:45 p.m.

Sept. 23:

"Cinema Paradiso" at 3,5,7 & 9 p.m.

Sept. 1-Oct. 14:

Weekend Wildlife Film Series at the Desoto National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center, at 1:30 and 2:45 p.m. with free admission. Call (712) 642-4121 for information.

MUSIC & DANCE

Fridays 7:30

Lincoln Folk Dancers; west side of Sheldon. Call Karen Roost, 477-7640

Sundays 6-9

Omaha International Folk Dancers, Grace Lutheran Church, 1316 S. 26 St. Newcomers welcome; new dances taught 6 to 7:30.

Sept. 1:

Accapella, a gospel group, in concert at the Orpheum Theater at 7 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$3, and are available by calling 366-9771.

Sept. 13, 16 & 23:

"I'm a Stranger Here Myself," presented by Opera/Omaha at Joslyn's Witherspoon Concert Hall, 2200 Dodge. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. on the 13th & 16th; 2 p.m. on the 23rd. Admission starts at \$15. Call 346-0357 for reservations.

Sept. 14, 16, 20 & 22:

"Maria Padilla" presented by Opera/Omaha at Joslyn's Witherspoon Concert Hall, 2200 Dodge. Curtain at 8 p.m. on the 14th & 22nd; 2 p.m. on the 16th; and 7:30 p.m. on the 20th. Admission starts at \$15. Call 346-0357 for reservations.

Sept. 15, 21 & 23:

"The Golem" presented by Opera/Omaha at Joslyn's Witherspoon Concert Hall, 2200 Dodge. Curtain at 8 p.m. on the 15th and 21st; 7:30 p.m. on the 23rd. Admission starts at \$15. Call 346-0357 for reservations.

Sept. 16:

Ramsey Lewis in concert at the Orpheum Theater at 5 p.m. Call 444-4750 for ticket information.

Sept. 19:

The Grass Roots in concert at the Civic Auditorium Arena at 7 p.m. A benefit for the Fraternal Order of Police. Call 731-0103 for tickets.

Sept. 27 & 29:

Omaha Symphony Classical Series with Caroline Park on the oboe. At the Orpheum Theater at 8 p.m. Call 342-3560 for reservations and information.

SPORTS

The Omaha Royals, AAA farm team of the Kansas City Royals, plays its home

games at Rosenblatt Stadium, I-80 & 13th Street. General admission is \$3.50. Final regular season games are:

Sept. 1 vs. Oklahoma City 89ers at 6:05 p.m.

Sept. 2 vs. Denver at 2:05 p.m.

Sept. 3 vs. Denver at 7:05 p.m.

Sept. 16:

Corporate Cup Run begins at 8:15 a.m. at the Omaha Civic Auditorium. Call 331-9000 for information.

THEATER

Sept 1:

"Murder a la Carte" at the Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 So. 19th Street. Thur.-Sat. 6 p.m.; noon matinees Wed. & Sun. Call 344-7777 for ticket information.

Sept. 4-9:

"Les Miserables" national touring company at the Orpheum Theater. Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Tue.-Sat. and 2 p.m. on Thur., Sat. & Sun. Tickets begin at \$26.50 and information is available at 444-4750.

Through Oct. 14:

"Pump Boys and Dinettes" at the Firehouse Dinner & Theatre, 11th and Jackson. Tue.-Sat. dinner at 6 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. Sun. dinner at noon and 5 p.m., show at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. Wed. dinner at 11 a.m. show at 12:30 p.m. Admission ranges from \$12-\$18.50 for show only, \$20-\$24.50 for dinner and show. Call 346-8833 for information.

Sept. 6-Oct. 27:

"Chapter II," by Neil Simon at the Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 So. 19th Street. Thur.-Sat. 6 p.m., Wed. & Sun. at noon. Dinner and show \$14.95-\$22.95. For information call 344-7777.

Sept. 7-30:

"Blues in the Night," blues music frames the story of three women remembering one man. At the Center Stage, 30th & R Streets, Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 3 p.m. For more information call 733-5777.

Sept. 7-Oct. 7:

"Big River" at the Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th and Cass. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 & 6 p.m. Adult admission \$15 Sun. and weekdays, \$18 weekends. Call 553-0800 for information.

Sept. 13-Oct. 14:

"Last Stand of the Polish Sharpshooters," at the Omaha Community Playhouse Fonda/McGuire series, 69th & Cass. Thur.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. General adult admission is \$11. Call 553-0800 for information.

Franklin Grand Jury Witness Tells of Irregular Proceedings

continued from page 1

who should not have been.

Sen. Chambers: Uh huh.

Jane Doe: Because of the fact that XY's name is in the Franklin thing. Whether he is guilty or not, it's still been mentioned.

Sen. Chambers: In what connection had you mentioned his name?

Jane Doe: Because they asked me what I had known. The fact that I had stated certain things to the FBI, they were asking questions about my statement to the FBI, and XY's name was in there along with Z.

Sen. Chambers: Okay, now tell me what was in your statement to the FBI about Z.

Jane Doe: Basically that Z told me that he wanted to get out. All of X's foster boys had--he had, like, 5 of them--had wanted to get out of X's house. Me and Z were real close. He had mentioned satanic stuff, not so much that he had seen it with X; just that the--and sexual abuse.

Sen. Chambers: In the home?

Jane Doe: He did not state where it came from.

Sen. Chambers: And he did not necessarily say that X had been the one who had done it?

Jane Doe: Correct.

Sen. Chambers: Okay. Is XY--what did he do for a living?

Jane Doe: He was a foster parent.

Sen. Chambers: Okay.

Jane Doe: I mean he used to be, I think it was like (here 15 letters or so are blocked out. Sen.

Chambers said that the name of a law enforcement agency was deleted.) or something like that.

Sen. Chambers: Okay, but he was in law enforcement?

Jane Doe: Yea, at one point in time he was in law enforcement.

Sen. Chambers: Now, if the lady on the Grand Jury stood up at the point she did, did she mention anything you had said directly, in connection with XY that she disagreed with?

Jane Doe: She asked my why I thought X could be like that. Because I can give you my own personal opinion that I did not like X. And she asked me why I felt he could be like that. And I had also mentioned something about his wife, it wasn't real pertinent, it just...

Sen. Chambers: But then the juror stood up and said that she knew him personally.

Jane Doe: She said that she was friends with XY.

Sen. Chambers: Was there any--

Jane Doe: And that she had known XY had known him for years.

According to Jane Doe, Van Pelt told her how to testify and why, revealing information about the Grand Jury proceedings that others had been charged to keep secret.

Sen. Chambers: So if Van Pelt had not mentioned Alisha as the one bringing charges against Wadman, you would not have known

that?

Jane Doe: Correct

Sen. Chambers: And after he told you that, what did he say he wanted from you in connection with that?

Jane Doe: He told me because there was one other victim witness who was like Alisha, but recanted his story, who was male, and I don't know if it was the one who just got three counts of perjury or not.

Sen. Chambers: But he told you that there was another person.

Jane Doe: There was another person who had recanted his story and said that Alisha was lying. And he said that since Alisha had given my name saying that I was at these parties, and then the fact is that I don't know Alisha, then that can help clear up the mess. Because they did not believe Alisha's stories.

Van Pelt was said to make references to Jane Doe's past, including some illegal activities that were blocked out of the transcript, could have been interpreted by her as a threat to indict her. She said in the interview, "there were some things that I had done in my past that I was afraid he was going to charge me with."

Old Boy Network

We suspect that the Jury was well plugged into the good old boy network. It seems curious that they relied on the Omaha Police Department to find Jane Doe's current

workplace and residence, in spite of the fact that she lived some distance outside Omaha. Did OPD, whose former head was being investigated, suggest that Van Pelt pursue this particular witness? Were they trying to script the outcome of the testimony by plugging in certain witnesses?

Furthermore, if the jurors were truly as uninterested in focusing on the testimony and as unwilling to ask relevant questions as Jane Doe recalled in her narrative, we find it hard to believe that they could have worked together enough to produce the report; we believe the Grand Jury Report to be authored by one or two people.

The Observer contacted Mr. Van Pelt's office and offered him equivalent space to this article, but he declined even to comment. We regret not having any of his viewpoint represented here. Sen. Chambers has received communication from Douglas County Attorney Ron Staskiewicz, to whom the original cover letter was addressed, stating that Staskiewicz sees no evidence of criminal activity in the transcript, but he promised to interview Jane Doe. Regarding ethical considerations, Staskiewicz did not consider it within his duties to investigate. The entire transcript of the interview, 27 pages, is too long for us to print. We are, however, making it available for our duplicating and postage costs, \$2. Anyone carefully following this story should read it and judge its importance for herself.

Appearance of Impropriety When Special Prosecutor Gave Ride to Witness

Continued from page 1

about the Twin Towers.

FBI Leaks

Ms. Doe said that after having talked to the FBI, she began receiving phone calls at work from an unknown man claiming to have parted with her in the past. Despite having moved several times, despite the fact that the telephone number was not listed under her name, the calls continued. She said she believed there were FBI leaks.

Mr. Van Pelt agreed that there were FBI leaks but said there were none "in his Grand Jury."

Grand Jury Leaks

Jane Doe believed there were Grand Jury leaks because, following her testimony, she began receiving phone calls from an unknown male who told her she "talked too much" and warned her that she "had better stop talking."

She believes that her phone number could only have been obtained by the caller, from Grand Jury sources. (In order to locate her for the purpose of serving the subpoena, the Deputy had to obtain her friend's name from the Omaha Police.

Conduct of Jurors

She was puzzled as to why the Jurors "more focused on (her) life than anything going on with the Franklin thing."

Ms. Doe described how a female juror stood up and challenged her regarding certain comments she made about a man whom the Juror claimed was a personal friend whom she had known for a long time. The Juror defended the man by declaring that, "I don't think X would have done anything bad."

I agree with Ms. Doe that Juror did not belong there. Yet Mr. Van Pelt did not disqualify her and allow an Alternate Juror to replace her.

How many other Jurors were personal friends of individuals who may have been mentioned by witnesses? How much were members of the Jury influenced in their decisions by their personal acquaintanceship or friendship with various individuals? This is a very serious matter and one which Mr. Van Pelt should have addressed.

Another Juror challenged comments she made about satanic activity and where it may have occurred, telling her, "I don't believe it occurred because there is no building there." After Ms. Doe gave additional details and said, "It sits behind the Dillon Inn by the

Westroads, on Dodge Street," they said, "oh yea, well there is."

There was no indication in the Grand Jury Report that this information was followed up or checked out, in any way. This, despite the Report's comments about a young girl who had talked of similar activities but was unable to pin down specific locations.

Ms. Doe's conclusion about the Jurors was that, "nobody from the jury actually seemed to care what was going on, at all, about the (Franklin) case at all." They talked between themselves and laughed while she was testifying.

Mr. Van Pelt neither did nor said anything about it at all.

Disclosure of Grand Jury Business

On the return trip home, Mr. Van Pelt told Jane Doe about the "easy day" coming up the next day. When he asked why, he disclosed to her that the witness would "plead the Fifth." She said, "He told me that he was a homosexual and that he had sex with little boys. And that they would indict him on that, so that fact is that he had to plead the Fifth so he would not get indicted." Van Pelt said it would be an easy day "because he wouldn't have to do anything," except "just sit there and listen to those guys plead the Fifth through-

out the questions."

That exchange, in addition to consisting of inappropriate disclosures by Mr. Van Pelt, is in sharp contrast to the Jury's refusal to subpoena Larry King, "because...he would rely on his right against self-incrimination," and therefore, "it would not be fruitful to attempt to require King to appear before (the Grand Jury)."

Perhaps Mr. Van Pelt was burned out. He discussed with Ms. Doe "how he hopes the Grand Jury gets over soon so that he can go out on his farm," and complained "about how this should have been done with. This should have been over with. We've met every day."

Reason For Jane Doe's Appearance

In response to the question as to what her impression was of what Mr. Van Pelt wanted of her when she came before the Grand Jury, Ms. Doe responded, "Basically that he was using as, like a dummy witness because he had figured out that I didn't have or know about any of the information that his Grand Jury was dealing with....So it just seemed to me like he was going to use me just to discredit Alisha."

Van Pelt had said several times to Jane Doe that the Jurors did not believe Alisha Owen.